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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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BIRTH.

On the 22nd September, at Pyre Sugar Estate, Province Wellesley, Straits, the wife of JOHN LAMB, of a son.

DEATH.

On the 6th October, at 7.30 p.m., at Elliot Crescent West, Robinson Road, CARL JONAS PAUL, youngest child and only son of CARL and CAROLINE ROGGE, aged 17 months and 17 days.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 1, DES VUEX ROAD, C. L. SING OFFICE: 181, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 8th October, 1902.

The annual meeting of the local Branch of the China Association, held at the City Hall on Monday afternoon, was not very largely attended, but the proceedings were interesting and harmonious, and the account of the work done was very satisfactory. No doubt there would have been a larger attendance had the hour of meeting been fixed a little later, say five o'clock, when the commercial offices would have been closed and opportunity afforded to all the members to turn up. We trust this will be done on the next occasion, for this is emphatically a body to encourage, and it will be well to show that its work is being strongly supported. The Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR, who presided, made a breezy, spirited speech, in which, after reviewing the work done by the Committee during the past year and commenting on some of the more important questions dealt with, he termed the Consuls the official watchdogs of British interests in China, and the Association the unofficial watchdog, whose business it is to sound the alarm in case the official watchdogs have been asleep or have been unable to make the warnings sufficiently heard in London. This is a very apt review of the position. The officials do, sometimes, need a little waking up, and their representations to the Foreign Office are often greatly assisted when backed up by statements or protests from a commercial body like the China Association. Moreover, the Association has an advantage over

a body such as the Chamber of Commerce, in being entirely British. Matters that could hardly be submitted to a cosmopolitan body like the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce can be and are laid before the Association confidentially for their opinion and advice. These opinions are not only sought but they are listened to. Mr. PLAYFAIR, at the meeting on Monday, gave an instance of this. Quoting from a letter received, that morning from the London Branch of the Association, he read the following passage:—"Not only have your protests been promptly forwarded to the Foreign Office, but we have evidence that they have been acted upon." This statement evoked a sharp round of applause, and is indeed an encouragement not always vouchsafed to voluntary unofficial effort.

A perusal of the correspondence appended to the Report, comprising some thirty-six pages, shows that the local Branch of the China Association has fully recovered from the moribund condition into which it was at one time thought to have sunk, and is now very much alive. The energetic Chairman has evidently put his back into it, and with gratifying results. The Branch is able to make its voice heard, and it is now consulted, its advice acted upon, and its protests heeded. The Committee now contains a good deal of fresh blood, and with a Chairman like Mr. PLAYFAIR there is little danger of questions growing cold before they are grappled with, or of their being tackled so tamely that the protests forwarded to London fail to arouse interest or to enlist support. We are pleased to note this change in the Association, and are also gratified to find its influence steadily increasing. There is need for such a body in all conscience. In these days of excessive competition we must keep on the alert to see that no exceptional advantages are conceded in China to our foreign rivals, and, if need be, to prod the British manufacturer into action instead of resting on his laurels and allowing others to reap where he has sown but not held the field effectively. Yet more necessary still is it that the unofficial watchdog should remain sleepily on duty to guard the concession for which such a heavy price has been demanded. We refer to the abolition of *lekin* on imports into China. If the agreement negotiated by Sir JAMES MACRAE be faithfully observed, it cannot fail to prove beneficial by giving a great impetus to trade and ridding China of a legion of official harpies who devour the revenue while engaged in collecting it. But there is great danger of the treaty not being kept in the spirit even if it is carried out in the letter. The Chinese Government has, during the entire period of its intercourse with foreign states, proved so entirely lacking in good faith, so blind to its moral obligations, that it would be useless to imagine that on this occasion it is likely to undergo any sudden conversion to truth and duty. It will be more than ever necessary to watch carefully, jealously, and with Argus eyes, for intrusions of treaty stipulations having for their object the imposition of some new illegal impost on imports, which is calculated to check the development or in some cases actually to destroy the promising trade laboriously built up. Meanwhile it is only fair to observe, *en passant*, that the watch duties of the Association would be made pleasant indeed and would be materially lightened were every British consular official as energetic and as zealous for British commercial interests as Mr. JAMES SCOTT, His Majesty's present representative at Canton.

H.M.S. *Albion* arrived from Shanghai and the French cruiser *D'Entrecasteaux* from Amoy yesterday morning. The members of the Hongkong Gun Club will be at home to their friends at the Club grounds, from 4 to 6 p.m., to-day. The Royal Hongkong Yacht Club's annual meeting takes place on Tuesday next, at 5.30 p.m., when the business will be the election of committee, passing of accounts, and re-election of the rule about remeasurement each season. The Neill-Fawley Company left Hongkong for Manila yesterday morning by the *Rosetta* *Maru*. We hear that there is a possibility of their returning to Hongkong earlier than was at first contemplated, perhaps at some date near Christmas. The periodical leaflet sent out by Mr. F. Kiene, manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S., and published along with our Coronation number, receives a flattering notice from the *Equitable News*. It was printed at the Hongkong Daily Press Office.

Members of the Hongkong Boat Club are reminded of the smoking concert to be given in S. Andrew's Hall on Saturday next. An excellent programme has been arranged and tickets for members and guests can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. H. Gale, P.W.D. We are glad to notice that the inscription on the granite block near the Cricket Pavilion in Chater Road commemorating the laying of the foundation of the new *Praya Reclamation* works by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in 1882, has been re-gilded and the face of the stone cleaned.

A regular convocation of Victoria Chapter Lodge, No. 525 E.C., is called for Monday, the 13th inst., at 8.30 p.m. The final of the Professional Pairs competition of the Golf Club is to be played on the Happy Valley links this afternoon. The transport *Wakool*, having on board the Derbyshire, the regiment relieving the Welsh Fusiliers on this station, is expected here to-day. There will be an extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club, in the Pavilion, on Wednesday next, at 5.15 p.m., for the purpose of revising the Club rules. A forest has suddenly developed at Kowloon—consisting of stags apparently supporting the side wall of a row of lofty buildings which were recently "run up" in the vicinity of the Indian barracks. The Government which, through the Sanitary Board, threatens pains and penalties to those who do not clean their houses, might set a valuable and an appreciative example by flushing the drains of the colony. The stench from the manholes on the lower levels during the last few days has been abominable. On the 15th ult. the marriage was to be celebrated at the English Church at Stockholm of Mr. Henry Oatman Box-Tonsile, His Majesty's Acting Charge d'Affaires at Stockholm and once Sir Claude Macdonald's deputy at Peking, to the Countess Martha Gyldenstolpe, daughter of Count Gyldenstolpe, Master of the Horse to His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway. The first European ever hung in Singapore, Josef Goin or Guit, the Frenchman who murdered a rich man in Keppel Road, in July, paid the last penalty of the law on the morning of the 29th ult., and was hanged in the Criminal Gaol, in the presence of the officials, soon after sunrise. The customary inquest was held and the verdict returned at about half-past seven o'clock. The *P. and T. Timesways*—Handy Andy has again made his appearance at the Tientsin Station. A gentleman told a minor official the other day to send a barrow (at the moment he had a *baggage*) up to his house; the consequence was of his immediately took off all the baggage, left the latter on the platform, and sent the empty barrow away to the remote end of the British Extension. One may guess the compensation service with which the satisfaction of orders was received. A despatch dated Washington, 25th September, says:—Admiral Robley D. Evans has sailed. The Navy Department that he has started upon the Yangtze River to Ichang to investigate rumors of American mission disturbance at this place which had reached him. As yet the Department has no knowledge of the nature of the disturbances, but if the several American missions located there are threatened, it is assured that Admiral Evans will afford the Americans ample protection. The Victoria Lithographic Works notify in another column that they have recommenced business, and have engaged a skilled French lithographic artist, so that a great improvement in local lithographic work may be anticipated. Hitherto lithography in Hongkong has been left to the Filipinos, whose work is necessarily crude and unfinished. The business which was formerly Spanish is now under English proprietorship, and will be developed so as to include every branch of the lithographic art, including photo-lithography. On a recent Saturday afternoon, the Singapore Royal Engineers (Volunteers) paraded at "Edin Lodge," the residence of Lieut. Polver, for practice in bridge construction. A wooden bridge had been thrown across the railway cutting close by, and appeared to be perfectly stable. While the finishing touches were being put on, and several of the men were seated on the bridge for this purpose, a portion of the timber collapsed, and several men were precipitated to the ground, about 20 feet below, two or three of them sustaining nasty bruises and cuts. The pole that snapped was rotten. Some discussion and correspondence in the papers has been going on at home lately on the subject of the connection of leprosy with a diet of salt-fish. It is not the eating of all salt fish which experts condemn, but of bad dried fish. One expert of the R.A.M.C., with a large experience of South Africa, writes of one district where leprosy exists that, as to fish-eating, it is universal over the whole district, but that the consumption is not very large. "The quality of the fish is bad, for salt being scarce, it is merely sun-dried, and often smells disgustingly." The applicability of these remarks to South China and to Hongkong will readily be seen. The China griffins, which arrived from the steamer on Sunday by the China Navigation steamer *Kueiyang*, were drawn at Happy Valley on Monday evening as follows:—Mr. G. H. Medhurst (2), Mr. E. Kadorie (1), Mr. C. H. Ross (2), Mr. W. S. Orr (1), Mr. N. Dorabjee (2), Mr. R. G. Smithers (1), Mr. D. MacDonald (2), Messrs. Brown & Graham (1), Hon. R. Sheehan (2), Mr. K. Wibel (2), Mr. J. L. Houston (1), Mr. Hart Buck (2), Mr. P. C. Potts (1), Messrs. Chater & Mackie (1), Colonel Hughes (1), H. K. & S. Bank Jinn, Mess (1), Mr. G. Ballcock (1), Mr. W. A. Cruikshank (1), Mr. E. W. Rutter (3), Hon. C. W. Dickson (1), Mr. H. N. Mody (4), Mr. J. H. Lewis (4), Messrs. Deacon and Morris (2), Mr. E. S. Joseph (1), Mr. F. B. Marshall (1), Mr. H. P. White (1), and Mr. Redmacker (1).

The *Figure* (Paris) announces that M. Debraze, formerly French Minister at Bangkok, will be appointed French Minister to Persia.

Rangoon's new water supply, the Bhanga water scheme, which is estimated to cost \$9 lakhs, is expected to be completed by 1904. The reservoir is to be constructed to hold 13,950 million gallons at a distance of 16 miles from Rangoon.

Funds are being raised in France for a monument to Prince Henri of Orleans, who died at Saigon a few years ago after gaining fame as an explorer. The monument, which is to cost one hundred thousand francs, will be set up at Cape St. James.

In a recent issue of the *Outlook* we find the following letter addressed to the Editor:—"I have been in close touch with my friends down this side, and may tell you to banish any idea that trouble is ahead with the Negus. There certainly may be trouble ahead in the Persian Gulf and Siam; in '93 the French had designs on Mong Pray, Sa, and Uteradit. And ere long the Chinese will kick about the indemnity, and so should I with both feet! M.O.S." The letter has the address "SS, Red Sea, August 15." Mr. M.O.S. is well known in China.

A telegram dated New York, September 5, states that the Associated Cricket Clubs of Philadelphia have held a meeting to consider a proposed tour by the Philadelphians through Great Britain next year. It was decided to instruct Mr. F. H. Bolen, who is now in England, to co-operate with Mr. C. W. Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey Cricket Club, in arranging a programme beginning with matches against Ireland, to be played in Dublin, against Scotland, in Edinburgh, and afterwards against the Universities and counties of England.

After announcing that the construction of the British railway from Quetta to Nushki has been definitely decided upon, and that work will be begun upon it immediately, the *Norae Vrenga* remarks that this railway constitutes the first section of the great iron road which is eventually to connect Quetta with Sistan, and thus to bring the British on to the flank of the probable route of Russia's march upon India. "This first enterprise of Great Britain," continues the journal, "must not remain numbered on our part, as otherwise the equilibrium at present existing will be in danger of being disturbed. When Great Britain, through her railway, takes the direction of Sistan, that province, the political and economic importance of which is enormous, will be included in the British sphere of influence, a thing which we must not and cannot allow."

The *Singapore Free Press*, of the 29th ult., says that, "with reference to the attempt made by the Siamese authorities to 'differentiate' between goods from Singapore and those from Bangkok, by directing the Rajah of Kelantan to cease collecting duties on goods taken into his State from Bangkok," it now learns on excellent authority that the Rajah has demanded the payment of all the outstanding import duties that have not been collected for the last six months. "The Singapore paper continues:—'The news that we have received to-day says that the Rajah has apparently plucked up heart and told the Siamese officials that he proposed to collect the duties, in spite of the instructions from Bangkok. Furthermore he has insisted on the payment of harbour dues by all vessels calling at Kelantan ports from Bangkok, although the Siamese officials urged him to waive those dues. The reason given by the Rajah for his decided action is one that the Siamese will find it hard to answer, viz., that he is not prepared to sacrifice to Siam the trade of his State with Singapore.'"

Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., in *Blackwood's Magazine* tells the following story about the companions of the Sultan of Perak at the Coronation:—"On the night of their arrival I went through the suite of rooms which had been placed at our disposal, for the purpose of seeing that all was well with my friends; and it was fortunate that I did so, for I found two of the chiefs sleeping on the outside of their beds with only a silk coverlet, such as is used in their own country, pulled up about their necks. They were shivering miserably, and I roused them, and inquired what they were doing. They replied in a most woe-begone fashion that they were trying to get to sleep, and that they considered the circumstances somewhat adverse. They had a courteous reluctance to say anything derogatory concerning the climate of my native land, but it was plain that it met with their unqualified disapproval. I suggested to them the advisability of getting into their beds, and they gazed at me wonderingly. 'Have they any insides?' they asked. In their own country a sleeping-mat is a sleeping-mat, and bed-clothes do not exist, therefore a bed had never been presented to their imaginations as anything save a mat upon which to lie. I pulled open their beds, popped them in, tucked them up, turned out the light, and bade them tell me how they liked the unusual experience. Next morning they were loud in their praise of the new discovery and of European ingenuity. 'How great,' they exclaimed, 'is the intelligence of the white folk! Those sleeping-mats, which have insides to them, are indeed a splendid invention!'"

Dr. Perry, Chief of the Marine Hospital Service at Manila, has reported to the War Department that the cholera at present epidemic in the Philippines was introduced into Manila by fresh vegetables brought from China. The report gives an interesting account of the spread and ravages of the disease.

THE FIRE AT AMOY. Yesterday morning the Douglas Steamship Co.'s *ss. Hatching* arrived in Hongkong, bringing the first mail news of the serious conflagration which had occurred at Amoy. The telegraphic news so far has not been of a complete description by any means, and we suppose we must wait for other arrivals from Amoy before the full story is forthcoming, for the *Hatching* brings little that has not been at least foreboded in our telegraphic service. It seems that the conflagration, though serious enough in all conscience, has not proved so serious as the first messages would have us to suppose. By these we were led to understand that something like 2,000 houses and shops had been destroyed by the flames. It appears that 800 is, at best, as possible, the number implicated. When the *Hatching* arrived in Amoy on Saturday morning, the ruins of the devastated portion were still smoking, and shortly before the vessel sailed there was a recrudescence of the flames, caused, apparently, by the fall of houses and walls. It is said that the fire originated in a native temple. When the outbreak occurred the wind was blowing towards the harbour. The only vessels in port were the *Wanchow* and the *Neuchow*. The captains and crews of these two steamers went on shore to assist in the subduing of the flames. They worked ardently, according to our informant, but owing to the direction of the wind were unable to keep the conflagration from getting a hold upon the buildings on the Bund. Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik & Co., Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and Messrs. Dwyer & Co. premises on the Bund were saved from destruction only by the strenuous efforts of the Europeans who had landed to help to extinguish the flames. We regret to state that Captain Pitt of the *Wanchow* was killed while heroically engaged in this perilous work; a smouldering wall fell upon him and he was killed on the spot. The remains of the burnt houses, which included a large Chinese tea-house on the Bund, were smoking heavily when the *Hatching* left Amoy on Saturday night. At that time, the damage had not been assessed, but it must not amount to many thousands if not millions of dollars. The crisis of the Chinese long on the water-front took the precaution, when they saw the flames approaching, of shifting their household goods and properties into large boats which they pushed off into mid-stream.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 6th October. H.E. TAO MA, having some time ago, manifested the Throne to permit him to resign on account of illness, has at last actually resigned, and handed over the seals of the Viceroyalty to H.E. TAO MA, who now occupies the position of Acting Viceroy of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. But the illness of H.E. TAO MA is at present, for reasons, to permit him to take a voyage home; therefore the yamen of the Salt Commission in the Southern suburb has been prepared for his temporary accommodation. On the 3rd inst., he was removed to his new residence, his family having gone early in the morning. The steersman from the Viceroy's to the Salt Commission's yamen were lined with soldiers and well guarded. Just at 11 a.m. a salute of three guns was fired from the Viceroy's yamen and the procession, consisting of the Viceroy's retinue, officials and banner-bearers, was on its way. As His Excellency was indisposed the governor-elect, no gun was to be beaten on the way; nor any police-men to cry out. Orders were also given that the guards of honour need not *houston* when he passed. The procession went slowly and quietly. His Excellency sitting in a large sedan chair in plain civilian dress, preceded by a foreign chair with a foreigner within. His Excellency looked very thin and pale, sometimes closing his eyes for a rest, and sometimes opening them to look round.

CRICKET-FIGHTING.

Owing to the cricket-fighting matches in Fa Chow, in the district of Pan Yu being burnt, and a number of persons killed, the matter has been placed in the hands of the Acting Prefect Kung. It has been found by the official enquiry that the fire originated from the gambling, which caused the destruction of all the sheds, eight flower-boats, over 20 small boats, and the death of a great number of persons. From 30 to 40 bodies were taken up from the water, and the high authorities have issued a notification prohibiting cricket-fighting as a mode of gambling. The notification is to this effect:—"Whereas it has been the bad custom in Canton during the 7th and 8th moons for some rogues and vagabonds to build matches for cricket-fighting as a mode of gambling, which sheds were full of gamblers and covered with mats, and of extensive size, some being used as drink-shops some as brothels, some as gambling-houses, where the games of cards, *fan-tan*, and dice were played, and others used as restaurants and for theatrical performances with a view to attract persons to the cricket-fighting for the purpose of gain; and whereas persons going to such places were mostly accommodated in flower-boats, and on the way were attacked by pirates; this bad custom ought to be prohibited as so dangerous to the cause of sobriety and danger to life and property. Landowners, therefore, are not permitted to let their grounds for the purpose of cricket-fighting; theatrical proprietors are not allowed to accept any entertainment there; flower-boats are prohibited from taking passengers there. In the event of disobedience of this order the offenders shall be seized and punished, and their property confiscated."

ORDINANCES.

The Acting Viceroy TAO MA will take up his residence in the yamen of the Viceroy on the 14th October. The Hon. Provincial Governor LI KUN-CHIANG will accompany the yamen of the Provincial Governor on the 14th.

N.B.—A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held immediately after the Council.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 7th October, 7.2 p.m.

H.E. LIU KUNG-YI'S DEATH.

H.E. Liu Kung-yi, the Nanking Viceroy, died at 8 a.m. on the 6th instant. Before dying he recommended Cheng Wei-nieh or En Shou as his successor. The first named is his probable successor.

All flags here have been half-masted out of respect to H.E. Liu Kung-yi.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SINGAPORE, 7th October, 10.50 a.m.

THE SINGAPORE COMMAND.

Major-General Sir A. R. F. Dorrard has been reappointed to the command of the Singapore garrison.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

LONDON, 5th October.

THE U.S. COAL STRIKE.

President Roosevelt made strenuous appeals to both parties concerned in the strike of U.S. coal-miners, in order to avert the suffering of the people, which, in view of the cold weather, amounts to a national calamity. Though his intervention has momentarily failed, it is believed that it will not be entirely without result as the public are becoming exasperated against strikers and trusts generally.

THE NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

The new Japanese loan will be issued in London on Tuesday at 4.02.1/2, 8d., being the equivalent of par.

Agent's Note.—The loan amounts to fifty million yen, and will be issued in bonds for one thousand yen each at a guaranteed exchange of 240.

LONDON, 5th October.

THE FUNERAL OF M. ZOLA.

The funeral of M. Zola took place at Montmartre in the presence of enormous but orderly crowds at one o'clock this afternoon. The French Government was represented by the Minister of Education, who delivered an oration. Contrary to arrangement, M. Dreyfus was present at the ceremony, but he fortunately passed unnoticed, and the feared disturbances were avoided.

THE MARTIAL LAW COMMISSION.

The members of the Cape martial law have sailed homewards.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting will be held to-morrow at 3 p.m.

BUSINESS.

1. Financial minutes (Nos. 51 to 59).

2. Report of the Finance Committee.

(No. 12.)

3. Question.—Is it a fact that the houses which have recently collapsed were built in accordance with the Building Ordinance in this Colony and were so certified by the Director of Public Works?

4. Question.—As in the Colonial Secretary's reply to my (Hon. G. W. F. Playfair's) question at the last meeting of Council, he admitted that there were no regulations on the subject of holding enquiries into the collapse of houses, and as section 6 of Ordinance 17 of 1888 only permits the Magistrate to enquire into cause of death and does not compel him to do so, I beg now to ask if the Government will either introduce a separate Ordinance dealing with the whole question of the delay and the Building Ordinance making such enquiries compulsory, to be held immediately after the occurrence and giving authority for really heavy fines, and not nominal ones, to be inflicted on all concerned.

5. Question.—To ask the Director of Public Works:—

(1) Why the Water Accounts for January, February and March were not sent out till 25th of September?

(2) With whom does the responsibility for the delay rest?

(3) Is want of a sufficient staff the reason?

(4) Will an assurance be given that such delays will not be permitted in future?

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Tramway Ordinance, No. 10 of 1902.

2. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding four million seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars and twenty cents to the Public Service of the year 1902.

3. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Ordinance, 1869.

4. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Dogs Ordinance, 1869.

5. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal the Land Registry Office (Fees) Amendment Ordinance No. 3 of 1904.

6. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the registration of Deeds, Wills, Judgments, and Conveyances affecting real or immovable property in Hongkong.

7. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licences Amendment Ordinance, 1900.

8. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1901.

9. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Tsau Hon Cho, otherwise known as Tsau Ming Tsai, otherwise known as Tsau Yew Wing.

G. G. GRANT, Acting Clerk of Council.

N.B.—A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held immediately after the Council.

CHOLERA IN MANILA.

Dr. Perry, Chief of the Marine Hospital Service at Manila, has reported to the War Department that the cholera at present epidemic in the Philippines was introduced into Manila by fresh vegetables brought from China. The report gives an interesting account of the spread and ravages of the disease.

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